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Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names
New York, 8-17 August 2017
Item 5 of the provisional agenda*
Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the Tenth Conference (for distribution only)

Report of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Summary**

There is no national names authority in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, although both Scotland and Wales have place-name authorities. In practice, the geographical names as portrayed on printed and digital products of the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain are recognized as being authoritative. Ordnance Survey Northern Ireland, administered within Land and Property Services, performs a similar function in Northern Ireland. The report outlines the function of Ordnance Survey as the national mapping agency and its role with regard to toponymy, and highlights developments since the Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. It contains information on names policy, database management and geographical names products.

Geographical names for places and features outside the United Kingdom are the responsibility of the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, whose objectives are described in the report. The Permanent Committee gathers information on names standardized by national authorities to inform the Government of the United Kingdom of appropriate names to be used on its products.

The United Kingdom has issued a new edition of the toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors (E/CONF.105/32/CRP.32), for the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, to be submitted under item 9 (e) of the provisional agenda.

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* E/CONF.105/1.

** The full report was prepared by the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names and the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain, and is available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf11.html, in the language of submission only, as document E/CONF.105/55/CRP.55.

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